

Garamendi Lauds Passage of Ocean Protection Legislation Bill Cracks Down on Industrial Plastic Debris, Protects California Marine Habitat

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today applauded passage of AB 258 (Krekorian), legislation that will crack down on industries that spill plastic waste products into the ocean and our waterways. The bill, championed by Garamendi who serves as an ex-officio member of the Ocean Protection Council, mandates that industrial facilities put in place best management practices to control against the release of nurdles (pre-production plastic) into the environment.

"It is absolutely critical that we aggressively address the growing crisis of marine debris that is choking marine life and destroying precious habitat off California's coastline," said Garamendi. "This is a common sense measure that will protect our beaches and marine ecosystems."

"I applaud Assemblymember Krekorian for his leadership in authoring this bill, and Governor Schwarzenegger for his signature and his continued efforts to protect California's precious natural resources."

Plastic pellets, commonly called "nurdles," originate from inland urban areas when released during the transport, packaging, and processing of plastics. A 2001 study found that nurdles comprised roughly 98% of the beach debris collected. Nurdles can carry two types of micropollutants in the marine environment - toxic plastic additives and pollutants attracted to nurdles from the ambient seawater.

As Lt. Governor, Garamendi continues to aggressively use his position as chair of the State Lands Commission and as a member of the Ocean Protection Council to enact policies that will

protect and preserve the majestic beauty and resources of California.

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